
NEW YORK STATE

Monthly Harvest



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Department Celebrates Dairy Month in June!

It's officially one of our favorite months of the year – known to most as “June,” but to us, more importantly – as Dairy Month! Starting with World Milk Day on June 1, Dairy Month provides us all an opportunity to recognize our tremendous dairy farmers and dairy manufacturers who are producing and processing some of the very best dairy products in the world. Dairy is the largest single segment of New York's agricultural industry, boasting nearly 3,200 dairy farms, from major global processing companies to small, family-run operations. Plus, New York is the nation's fifth largest producer of milk, which is also our state's official drink!

At the Department, we are looking forward to spotlighting New York's dairy industry all month long by highlighting the sustainability practices of New York dairy producers and processors, as well as the public health work of the Department's Milk Control and Dairy Services team, through some exciting opportunities and events! Commissioner Ball kicked off the celebration with a visit to Castleton Elementary School on June 1 for the first event in our Dairy Education Days series, which brings members of the Department to elementary schools across the state to help kids learn about New York dairy. Commissioner Ball and the kids were also joined by a special guest, a days-old calf named Cutie, who lived up to her name!

Our Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Trodden and Milk Control and Dairy Services Division Director Casey McCue joined Chairs of the Legislative Agriculture Committees Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Donna Lupardo in celebrating New York dairy producers at one of the most beloved events of the year, Dairy Day at the Legislative Office Building in Albany.

The Department also announced the members of the 2023 New York State Dairy Promotion Order Advisory Board, which administers the Dairy Promotion Order and evaluates dairy marketing promotion programs. The board consists of ten New York milk producers appointed by the Commissioner to serve a three-year term starting May 1, 2023. The 2023 Advisory Board includes:

- Larry Bailey of Fort Ann, endorsed by Dairy Farmers of America
- Kim Nelson of West Winfield, endorsed by Agri-Mark
- Julie Patterson of Auburn, an at-large member
- Jason Kehl of Strykersville, endorsed by Niagara Frontier Cooperative Milk Producers' Bargaining Agency, Inc.
- Carl Moore of North Bangor, endorsed by NY Farm Bureau
- Dean Handy of St. Johnsville, endorsed by New York State Grange
- Alicia Lamb of Oakfield, an at-large member
- Judi Whittaker of Whitney Point, an at-large member
- Roberta Wolf of Lyons, endorsed by Rochester Cooperative Milk Producers' Bargaining Agency, Inc. and new to the Board
- Sarah Head of Homer, an at-large member and new to the Board

Please join us in congratulating our 2023 Board! We look forward to working with you.

As the State's leading agricultural sector, New York dairy is essential to our state's economy. From employing tens of thousands of New Yorkers to providing our families with nutritious, world-class foods, our dairy producers do a lot! So, stop at a Taste NY store for some delicious New York dairy treats this month, or look for the New York Grown & Certified label or plant code 36 on your favorite dairy products at the grocery store to make sure your products are New York produced and processed. We encourage everyone to support New York's dairy industry during #JuneisDairyMonth!

Coca-Cola Company to Build \$650 Million fairlife® Production Facility in Monroe County

The Coca-Cola Company has selected New York State for its preferred location for its new fairlife® production facility. The 745,000 square-foot facility is expected to create up to 250 new jobs and be built on property on Tebor Road in the Town of Webster, Monroe County. The company expects to break ground on the project sometime this fall, subject to appropriate approvals and final diligence, with the facility slated to

be operational by Q4 of 2025. The total project investment has been estimated at \$650 million.

This is exciting news for our state and for our dairy industry, which is New York's largest agricultural economic driver, and highlights the world-class excellence of our dairy community whose farmers who will be supplying milk to this state-of-the-art processing facility. [Check out more details from the announcement.](#)

Department to Collaborate with NASDA Foundation on \$30 Million Northeast Regional Food Business Center

The Department is proud to be a key partner in a new national initiative developed to help farmers and food businesses access new markets and available federal, state, and local resources. The USDA awarded the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation \$30 million to establish a Regional Food Business Center that serves the agricultural industry across the Northeast. This [Northeast Regional Food Business Center](#) is a tremendous step in New York State's efforts to build a more resilient food supply chain for our agricultural community and consumers statewide. Additionally, this initiative will help New York and its neighboring states provide targeted resources to our farmers and food businesses and increase the capacity of regional supply chains. We look forward to partnering with our neighbors on this great opportunity.

New York's FY 2024 Budget Includes Historic Investments for Agriculture

New York State's FY 2024 Budget includes historic support for New York's agricultural industry. Reflecting Governor Kathy Hochul's strong commitment to farmers and the local food production pipeline in her 2023 State of the State Address, the Budget includes significant investments to increase food manufacturing and state purchasing of local food; establishment of a refundable Investment Tax Credit to support farmers and farm workers; programming to build the farm workforce and assist community and urban farming efforts at the local level; new initiatives to enhance the craft beverage industry; and more. In addition, this marks the second consecutive year of record-breaking local assistance funding for agriculture, which provides for research, development, marketing and promotion programming in New York. [Learn more.](#)

Commissioner Ball Tours Frost-Damaged Vineyards

Commissioner Ball recently visited several grape growers in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions that saw

an extensive amount of damage to their crops, following an unseasonable frost a few weeks ago. Joining the Commissioner were state and local leaders, representatives from the New York Wine & Grape Foundation, New York Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Empire State Development, and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). The group met with grape growers in Steuben, Schuyler, and Seneca Counties to assess the damage in the region and better understand the outlook and plan for recovery.

Cornell Cooperative Extension continues to survey vineyards and other farms in the area to get a complete picture of the extent of the damage, and FSA staff across the area are working with partners and producers to document the damage and prepare a disaster declaration request.

The FSA recommends that farmers affected by the freeze should continue to document their conditions (pictures and video) and any losses. Farmers can file a CCC- 576 (Notice of Loss) with their local USDA FSA. Contact information for the offices can be found [here](#).

Environmental Bond Act Listening Sessions Taking Place Across the State

Last week, Governor Hochul announced the details for the next five locations in the statewide educational listening tour to advance the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The listening sessions will give the public and potential funding applicants the chance to learn more about the Bond Act and the draft eligibility guidelines being developed to identify potential projects. The next round of listening tour sessions include:

Central New York: Thursday, June 8, from 1 to 3 p.m., State University of New York Cortland, Corey Union Function Room

North Country: Friday, July 14, 1 to 3 p.m., North Country Community College, Sparks Athletic Complex Alumni Gymnasium

Capital Region: Thursday, July 20, 1 to 3 p.m., University at Albany, Campus Center Auditorium

Lower Hudson: Tuesday, August 15, 1 to 3 p.m., Westchester County Center, Little Theater

Long Island: Thursday, August 24, 1 to 3 p.m., Suffolk County Community College, Suffolk Credit Union Arena

Additional details are being finalized for sessions in the Bronx and Brooklyn, as well as two virtual meetings. To register for any of these sessions, visit www.ny.gov/bondact.

The landmark Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act is the largest environmental bond in state history and the first in New York since 1996. The Bond Act will make \$4.2 billion available for environmental and community projects that also support job creation and a substantial investment in the Clean Green Schools initiative that will serve more than

1,000 under-resourced public schools. Recognizing that vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by negative environmental and climate change impacts, at least 35 percent of Bond Act benefits will be directed toward disadvantaged communities, with a goal of ultimately reaching 40 percent.

State Funding to Boost Care of New York's Companion Animals at Shelters Across the State

Nearly \$7.6 million will be provided to 21 animal shelters and humane societies across the state through the New York State Companion Animal Capital Fund, which is in its fifth round. The funding will support construction, renovation, and expansion projects that will enhance animal care and health and help ensure adoptions for New York's dogs and cats, such as renovating dog kennels, improving medical facilities, or building more efficient shelters to reduce overall operational costs. Projects funded this year include new living spaces for additional cats, new medical facilities, improved outdoor spaces, and shelter renovations to include additional kennels.

"Animal shelters and humane societies across New York provide essential care for dogs and cats as they await their new families and forever homes," Governor Hochul said. "New York's Companion Animal Capital Fund is making a real difference for our shelters and humane societies, and the animals in their care, helping them make critical upgrades to better care for the animals and provide greater support for the staff and volunteers that care for them."

As the first in the nation to fund capital projects for animal shelters, New York State continues to demonstrate its commitment to securing safe housing and care for sheltered dogs and cats as they await adoption. Since the launch of the Companion Animal Capital Fund program in 2017, which is administered by the Department, the state has dedicated over \$33 million to the program, including funds committed in this year's budget.

Congratulations to the Envirothon Competition Winners

Congratulations to all the students who competed in the New York State Envirothon Competition and to this year's winners! The team from The Mount Academy in Ulster County was named New York State Champions at the long-standing hands-on environmental competition, which challenges students on their knowledge of natural resource science, public speaking, and civic engagement. Skaneateles High School from Onondaga County and Hudson High School in Columbia County were awarded second place and Schuylerville High School were awarded third place.

The Envirothon Competition includes a series of field station tests in the areas of soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and an emerging

environmental issue. The 2023 environmental issue focused on adapting to climate change. Forty-two teams from across New York State competed in environmental science and natural resource management written and oral tests during the two-day competition.

The student team from The Mount Academy will head to the international NCF-Envirothon to represent New York State this summer at Mount Allison University Tantramar (Sackville)* in New Brunswick, Canada from July 23 through July 29. Each member of the team received a scholarship, and the team will compete against other top teams from the United States and Canada. Kudos to our future environmental leaders!

\$800,000 Awarded to Urban Farms and Community Gardens Across the State



In May, Commissioner Ball announced that \$800,000 has been awarded to 35 organizations across New York through the Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program. This grant program complements the Department's ongoing efforts to provide technical assistance to community growing organizations statewide and promote urban agriculture. Funding for the program was included in the FY 2023 Enacted Budget and is a part of Governor Hochul's 2023 State of the State commitment to making local food more

accessible to all New Yorkers. Funding was awarded to projects focusing on food production, food safety, and food distribution while creating a lasting impact on local food resiliency. [Check out the full list of awarded recipients.](#)

Department Holds County Fairs Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Ball recently kicked off the first of a series of roundtable discussions with county fair representatives from across New York to help strengthen and expand these invaluable community events. For many New Yorkers, county fairs serve as the bedrock of agricultural education. From introducing kids and adults alike to agricultural practices to highlighting delicious local products, county fairs provide critical enrichment for our communities. The discussions will allow stakeholders the opportunity to expand and develop fairs' agricultural initiatives statewide. Topics for the first roundtable discussion included how to enhance fair marketing and promotion, plans for enhancing agricultural competitions at fairs, and other initiatives, including capital planning, emergency management, and commissioning an updated economic impact study.

Department Updates Kosher and Halal Food Registries

Ahead of food safety week, The Department announced an [updated online kosher and halal food registries](#). Food businesses that manufacture, produce, sell, or distribute food products labeled as halal or kosher are required to register with the Department, as well as entities that certify food as kosher or halal. The registries also allow consumers to search for kosher or halal foods in New York State. As a leader in food safety initiatives, New York State is committed to ensuring every consumer can feel confident that all the foods they buy in our state comply with our safety laws and standards.

New Grant Opportunity Announced to Expand Meat Processing Industry

Earlier this month, the Department joined the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation (HVADC) in announcing a new Meat Processing Expansion Grant Program, a \$5 million grant opportunity for projects to expand existing or establish new meat processing facilities. Following the food supply chain challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, many food industries saw an increased demand for locally sourced products, especially in meat processing. This program, which is funded by the Department and administered by the HVADC, will help address the nationwide shortage of affordable meat available to consumers, increase capacity of New York's processing facilities, and support agribusinesses. Learn more about the program [here](#).

Weights and Measures Division Attends NEWMA Annual Meeting

Commissioner Ball joined the Department's Weights and Measures team, regulators from across the state, and partners from the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Northeastern Weights and Measures Association (NEWMA) Annual Meeting in May. From testing electric vehicle charging stations to ensuring consumers get what they pay for at the pump or the grocery store, our Weights and Measures team works hard, and we thank them for their work!



Taste NY Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary at the Capital Region Welcome Center

Our tenth anniversary celebrations for the Taste NY program continued in May with a [visit to the Capital Region Welcome Center](#)! The event showcased New York's farmers and food and beverage producers and the diverse and unique products grown and made in the State. The celebration brought together regional agricultural, tourism, and supporting partners to introduce visitors to the New York farmers and producers whose products are available at the Welcome Center. Vendors sampling at the event included Liberty Farms, Love Apple Farm, Jourdin's Maple Syrup, See & Be Kitchen, and Vasilow's Confectionary. Additionally, the event showcased a new video highlighting ten years of Taste NY, with messages from participating producers and partners. Check it out below.



The Capital Region celebration marked the fourth in a series of events that are planned across the state in recognition of the 2023 10-year milestone and the Taste NY program's success over the last decade, including \$732,000 in sales at the Capital Region Welcome Center since its opening in 2018. The Welcome Center has brought in products from over 190 vendors across the state.



NYS Grown & Certified *updates*

Commissioner Ball Celebrates NY Grown & Certified Products at National Restaurant Association Show

Commissioner Ball joined members of our Agricultural Development and NYS Grown & Certified teams at the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago to promote New York's world class food and beverages! The show brought together national and international foodservice industries to celebrate innovations, products, and movements in the restaurant business. New York's delicious flavors and beverages were introduced to as many as 60,000 people at the Chicago Restaurant Show last month. Our NYS Grown and Certified team joined a mix of 15 New York restaurateurs, wineries, and cideries to present a "Taste of the States." The exhibit, featuring NYS Grown & Certified's Sfoglini Pasta, Love Beets, Indian Milk and Honey, Parker's Maple, and Four Fat Foul, showcased all that's great about supporting local growers and producers to restaurateurs, exhibitors, and visitors from around the world.

The New York State Grown & Certified program is a cooperative effort led by the Department to make it easy for consumers to identify local, safely handled, and environmentally responsible agricultural products. [Learn more about the NYS Grown & Certified program.](#)

Current Funding Opportunities

Check out our current funding opportunities:

- [RFA 0294 - Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 19 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Projects](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- [RFP 0291 – Climate Resilient Farming](#)
 - Proposals are due August 7, 2023
- [RFA 0263 - Municipal Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- [RFA 0262 - County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- [RFA 0181 - Source Water Buffer Program](#)

- Applications are taken on a rolling basis.

For more information on these or other funding opportunities, [please visit our Funding Opportunities page](#).

Spotlight: New York Products Featured at PGA Championship in Rochester

The [2023 PGA Championship featured the best of New York State agriculture](#)! Presented by Taste NY and I LOVE NY, the New York State Tasting Yard at the PGA Championship was an outdoor, patio style food and beverage sampling experience that featured a food and beverages from more than 100 New York State wineries, craft breweries, distilleries, and food producers. Additionally, the Tasting Yard included several dedicated spaces and promotions that engaged visitors with New York State's agricultural and tourism offerings. These included:

- The Taste NY Tasting Bar, showcasing a rotating selection of food and beverage samples from New York State producers.
- The I LOVE NY Lounge, where guests enjoyed their samples while learning more about New York State attractions and picking up an I LOVE NY souvenir.
- The I LOVE NY Photo Kiosk, giving guests the opportunity to pose in front of a sculpture featuring the iconic I LOVE NY logo.

This experience gave over 225,000 Championship spectators a taste of New York's world-class agricultural products and cuisine, and a glimpse into the diversity of the farms, vineyards, craft breweries, and attractions across the state. Thank you to our Taste NY team for putting it all together! Check out some photos of the New York State Tasting Yard below.

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